What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing a personalized service in a communication system, the method comprising:

detecting physical presence of a user; and

providing the personalized service to the user based upon the physical presence of the user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the physical presence of the user comprises:

using a detector to detect the physical presence of the user.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the physical presence of the user comprises:

using a detector in combination with an appliance gateway to detect the physical presence of the user.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the personalized service to the user based upon the physical presence of the user comprises:

using an appliance gateway to provide the personalized service to the user based upon the physical presence of the user.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting physical presence of the user comprises:

identifying the user.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein identifying the user comprises at least one of:

identifying the user based upon biometric information;

identifying the user based upon behavioral information; and

identifying the user through interaction with the user.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein providing the personalized service to the user based upon the physical presence of the user comprises:

providing the personalized service to the user based upon the identity of the user.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein providing the personalized service to the user based upon the identity of the user comprises:

obtaining user-specific information based upon the identity of the user; and

providing the personalized service to the user based upon the user-specific information.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the user-specific information comprises at least one of:

per-user rules;

user-defined rules;

user preferences; and

user applications.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein obtaining user-specific information based upon the identity of the user comprises at least one of:

retrieving the user-specific information from a local storage of an appliance gateway;

retrieving the user-specific information from the device;

retrieving the user-specific information from another device; and

retrieving the user-specific information from a remote storage over a communication network.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein obtaining user-specific information based upon the identity of the user comprises:

logically inferring some user-specific information from other user-specific information.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein providing the personalized service to the user based upon the identity of the user comprises at least one of:

obtaining information for the user;

anticipating needs of the user and providing said needs;

updating user preference information;

simplifying device control for the user;

handling a user schedule; and

providing reminders to the user.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein providing the personalized service to the user based upon the identity of the user comprises:

establishing a personal area network for the user based upon the identity of the user; and

providing the personalized service to the user within the personal area network.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the personalized service to the user within the personal area network comprises:

providing information to the user within the personal area network.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the personalized service to the user within the personal area network comprises:

monitoring a supported device within the personal area network.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the personalized service to the user within the personal area network comprises:

monitoring the user within the personal area network.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the personalized service to the user within the personal area network comprises:

maintaining a schedule for the user; and

providing a reminder to the user within the personal area network.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the personalized service to the user within the personal area network comprises:

retrieving information for the user over a communication network.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the personalized service to the user within the personal area network comprises:

determining a user preference for a supported device.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein providing the personalized service to the user within the personal area network further comprises:

updating user preference information to include the user preference for the supported device.

21. An apparatus comprising:

user detection logic operably coupled to detect physical presence of a user; and

personal agent logic responsive to the user detection logic and operably coupled to provide personalized services to the user based upon the physical presence of the user.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the user detection logic comprises a detector for detecting the physical presence of the user.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the user detection logic is coupled to a detector for detecting the physical presence of the user.

24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the user detection logic is operably coupled to identify the user.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the user detection logic is operably coupled to identify the user based upon at least one of:

biometric information;

behavioral information; and

interaction with the user.

26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to provide the personalized service to the user based upon the identity of the user.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to obtain user-specific information based upon the identity of the user and provide the personalized service to the user based upon the user-specific information.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the user-specific information comprises at least one of:

per-user rules;

user-defined rules;

user preferences; and

user applications.

29. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to retrieve the user-specific information from at least one of:

a local storage;

a supported device; and

a remote storage over a communication network.

30. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to logically infer some user-specific information from other user-specific information.

31. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to obtain information for the user.

32. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to anticipate needs of the user and provide said needs.

33. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to update user preference information.

34. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to simplify device control for the user.

35. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to handle a user schedule.

36. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to provide reminders to the user.

37. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to establish a personal area network for the user based upon the identity of the user and provide the personalized service to the user within the personal area network.

38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to provide information to the user within the personal area network.

39. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to monitor a supported device within the personal area network.

40. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to monitor the user within the personal area network.

41. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to maintain a schedule for the user and provide a reminder to the user within the personal area network.

42. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to retrieve information for the user over a communication network.

43. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to determine a user preference for a supported device.

44. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the personal agent logic is operably coupled to update user preference information to include the user preference for the supported device.

45. A computer program for controlling a computer system, the computer program comprising:

user detection logic programmed to detect physical presence of a user; and

personal agent logic responsive to the user detection logic and programmed to provide personalized services to the user based upon the physical presence of the user.

46. The computer program of claim 45, wherein the user detection logic comprises a detector for detecting the physical presence of the user.

47. The computer program of claim 45, wherein the user detection logic is coupled to a detector for detecting the physical presence of the user.

48. The computer program of claim 45, wherein the user detection logic is programmed to identify the user.

49. The computer program of claim 48, wherein the user detection logic is programmed to identify the user based upon at least one of:

biometric information;

behavioral information; and

interaction with the user.

50. The computer program of claim 48, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to provide the personalized service to the user based upon the identity of the user.

51. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to obtain user-specific information based upon the identity of the user and provide the personalized service to the user based upon the user-specific information.

52. The computer program of claim 51, wherein the user-specific information comprises at least one of:

per-user rules;

user-defined rules;

user preferences; and

user applications.

53. The computer program of claim 51, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to retrieve the user-specific information from at least one of:

a local storage;

a supported device; and

a remote storage over a communication network.

54. The computer program of claim 51, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to logically infer some user-specific information from other user-specific information.

55. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to obtain information for the user.

56. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to anticipate needs of the user and provide said needs.

57. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to update user preference information.

58. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to simplify device control for the user.

59. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to handle a user schedule.

60. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to provide reminders to the user.

61. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to establish a personal area network for the user based upon the identity of the user and provide the personalized service to the user within the personal area network.

62. The computer program of claim 61, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to provide information to the user within the personal area network.

63. The computer program of claim 61, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to monitor a supported device within the personal area network.

64. The computer program of claim 61, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to monitor the user within the personal area network.

65. The computer program of claim 61, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to maintain a schedule for the user and provide a reminder to the user within the personal area network.

66. The computer program of claim 61, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to retrieve information for the user over a communication network.

67. The computer program of claim 61, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to determine a user preference for a supported device.

68. The computer program of claim 67, wherein the personal agent logic is programmed to update user preference information to include the user preference for the supported device.

69. The computer program of claim 45 embodied in a computer readable medium.

70. The computer program of claim 45 embodied in a data signal.

71. A system for providing personalized services, the system comprising a gateway operably coupled to detect physical presence of a user and provide personalized services to the user based upon the physical presence of the user.

72. The system of claim 71, further comprising a physical presence detector in communication with the gateway for providing physical presence information to the gateway.

73. The system of claim 71, wherein the gateway is operably coupled to determine an identity of the user based upon the physical presence of the user and provide the personalized services to the user based upon the identity of the user.

74. The system of claim 71, wherein the gateway is operably coupled to obtain user-specific information and provide the personalized services to the user based upon the user-specific information.

75. The system of claim 74, wherein the gateway is operably coupled to obtain the user-specific information from at least one of:

a local storage of the computer system;

a supported device of the computer system; and

a remote storage over a communication network.